

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application. Claim 41 has been rejected. Claims 1-40 have been allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by international patent WO 99/23844 to Padovani (hereinafter “Padovani”). The Office Action states on page 1 that claim 41 has been rejected. However, on page 2 that Office Action states that “Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated . . .”. Furthermore, the Office Action states on page 2 that claims 1-40 are allowed. Applicants believe that the above statements referring to claim 1 should refer to claim 41 and have accordingly canceled claim 41. Applicants respectfully request clarification on this point.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-40 were allowed by the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for these allowed claims.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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